REMARKS

Claims 1, 4, 6, 8, 14 and 15 stand rejected as being anticipated by Borromeo, U.S. Patent No. 4,969,374. Claims 1, 4, 6, 7, 14 and 15 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Cheng, U.S. Patent No. 5,477,747. Claims 1, 4-10, 11 and 14-17 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Gelbein, U.S. Patent No. 5,584,210 in view of Borromeo. Finally, Claims 2, 3, 12 and 13 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Gelbein in view of Borromeo further in view of Steinbock, U.S. Patent No. 6,381,827. Claims 1-17 remain at issue.

Rejection of Claims 1, 4, 6, 8, 14 and 15 as anticipated by Borromeo

Claim 1, as amended, recites a clamp structure comprising a first arm having a distal end defining a first threaded through bore and a second arm having a distal end defining a second threaded through bore, wherein the first threaded through bore and the second through bore are essentially coaxial. A screw comprises a head and a shank, with the head being at one end of the shank and the shank having a threaded portion at a second end opposite the first end. The screw further includes a clearance portion between the threaded portion and the head. The screw is configured so that with a threaded engagement between the threaded portion of the shank and either of the first threaded through bore of the first arm or the second threaded through bore of the second arm and the head abutting the other of the first and second arms opposite the threaded engagement, the clearance portion resides within the other of the first and second threaded through bores. The structure recited in Claim 1 provides a clamp wherein the screw can be inserted into either of the first or second through bores and still perform the clamping function. This structure has the advantage of allowing the clamp to be symmetric and allows the clamp to function in the event either the first or second threaded through bores become stripped.

Borromeo teaches only a threaded through bore on a first arm and not a through bore on a second arm. As a result, Borromeo does not provide a structure wherein there can be threaded engagement between the threaded portion of the shank and either of a first threaded through bore of a first arm or a second threaded through bore of a second arm with the clearance portion residing in the other of the first and second threaded through bores.

Independent Claim 6, which is directed to a method of attaching a clamp to a frame, recites a similar structure and includes the step of engaging the screw with the clamp by screwing the threaded portion into a threaded engagement with either of the first and second

through bores such that the head abuts the arm opposite the threaded engagement and the clearance portion clears the threads of the threaded bore opposite the threaded engagement. Again, Borromeo fails to teach a structure allowing engaging of the screw with the clamp through either of two threaded through bores.

Claims 4 and 14 depend from Claim 1 and are not anticipated for the reasons set forth above with respect to Claim 1. Claims 7 and 15 depend from Claim 6 and are not anticipated for the same reasons set forth above with respect to Claim 6.

Because Borromeo fails to teach a clamp structure wherein a screw having a clearance portion can be inserted into either of opposing through bores and still perform the clamping function, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection over Borromeo is respectfully requested.

Rejection of Claims 1, 4, 6, 7, 14 and 15 over Cheng

Cheng is directed to a clamp structure having first and second threaded through bores that are essentially coaxial. However, Cheng fails to anticipate any of Claims 1, 4, 6, 7, 14 and 15 because Cheng fails to disclose a clamp structure including a screw having a threaded portion and a clearance portion configured to allow the screw to be inserted into either of a first and a second through bore with the clearance portion residing in the through bore and the threaded portion engaging the other threaded portion. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of Claims 1, 4, 6, 7, 14 and 15 as anticipated by Cheng are respectfully requested

Rejection of Claims 1, 4-10, 11 and 14-17 over Gelbein in view of Borromeo

As set forth above, independent Claims 1 and 6 each require a clamp structure wherein a screw may enter either of axially aligned threaded through bores and function to actuate the clamp. Borromeo fails to teach a clamp structure having a screw with a threaded portion and a clearance portion allowing the screw to enter either of axially threaded through bores and perform the clamp function. Gelbein is simply directly to a hand brake lever and fails to teach or suggest a clamp structure allowing insertion of the screw from either of axially aligned bores while still performing a clamping function.

Claim 10, which is directed to a method of manufacturing a symmetric clamp structure, includes the step of assembling the clamp by threadably engaging a screw with either of first and second threaded bores such that a head of the screw abuts an arm opposite the threaded

engagement and the clearance portion clears the threads of the threaded bore opposite the threaded engagement. Again, Borromeo fails to teach such a structure.

Claim 11 is directed to a bicycle brake lever including a clamp having essentially the same limitations recited in Claim 1. Most significantly, Claim 11 requires a screw being configured for threaded engagement between a threaded portion of the shank and either of a first threaded through bore of a first arm or a second threaded through bore of a second arm with the clearance portion residing in the other of the first and second through bores. Borromeo does not teach such a structure.

Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of Claims 1, 6, 10 and 11 as well as Claims 4-5, 7-9 and 14-17 which are dependent therefrom over Gelbein in view of Borromeo are respectfully requested.

Rejection of Claims 2, 3, 12 and 13 as unpatentable over Gelbein in view of Borromeo further in view of Steinbock

As set forth above, Gelbein in view of Borromeo fails to teach a clamp structure wherein a screw may enter either of two opposing substantially coaxial threaded through bores and perform a clamping function. Steinbock fails to teach or suggest the desirability of this feature as well. Accordingly, reconsideration of the rejection of Claims 2, 3, 12 and 13 as unpatentable over Gelbein in view of Borromeo further in view of Steinbock are respectfully requested.

Applicant respectfully submits Claims 1-17 as amended, are in condition for allowance. Reconsideration, withdrawal of the rejections and prompt issuance of a notice of allowance are respectfully requested. If it would be helpful to obtain favorable consideration of this case, the Examiner is encouraged to call and discuss this case with the undersigned.

This constitutes a request for any needed extension of time and an authorization to charge all fees therefor to deposit account No. 19-5117, if not otherwise specifically requested. The undersigned hereby authorizes the charge of any fees created by the filing of this document or any deficiency of fees submitted herewith to deposit account No. 19-5117.

Respectfully submitted,

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